

COMMITTEE ON AFFILIATED SOCIETIES AND REGIONAL BRANCHES

THE COMMITTEE on Affiliated Societies and Branches was established in accordance with the Association's Task Force recommendations and as authorized by the Governing Council at the 1956 Annual Meeting. The committee membership was designated by the Executive Board in February, 1957.

In essence, the program of this committee is a continuation of the activities initiated by an ad hoc committee appointed early in 1956 to advise the Executive Board on ways and means of strengthening Affiliated Societies and Branches. That committee held two meetings and submitted reports to the Executive Board.

Upon appointment of the present Standing Committee each member individually immediately went to work reviewing past recommendations of the previous ad hoc group and accumulating further information through discussions with representatives of Affiliated Societies in their respective areas. Then on September 16 the committee held its initial meeting in New York. Much of the day was devoted to a review of the previous ad hoc committee recommendations and progress toward their implementation. There was consideration given to several additional areas of possible future interest of the committee and to some immediate objectives.

The committee gave further consideration to the operational interrelationship between the APHA and the Affiliated Societies. One of the recommendations of the ad hoc committee had been that a national meeting or workshop of secretaries of Affiliated Societies be called to consider housekeeping and operational matters. This had not been possible of accomplishment but as a beginning in this direction some regional workshops

have been held, particularly under the auspices of the Southern Branch and of the Western Branch. The committee heard reports of these activities and urged their continuance as a mechanism of bringing the workers in Affiliated Societies together to consider common problems and exchange ideas on their solutions.

In furtherance of this program the committee recommended that there be a breakfast meeting of representatives of Affiliated Societies at this Annual Meeting at which time APHA-Affiliated Society and Branch relationships could be specifically considered. Such a meeting will be held Thursday morning.

The following are the highlights of other developments during the past year in the areas of interest to this committee.

Most Affiliated Societies now have a minimum of a three-year term of office for secretaries in order better to insure continuity of relationship with the APHA.

Some 35 Affiliated Societies and Branches have been visited by APHA staff representatives during the past year.

Increasing interest is developing among Affiliated Societies in taking the initiative in studying how relationships with the APHA may be strengthened. In several instances committees have been appointed for this specific purpose.

Plans are going forward for the development of full-time staff in the APHA office to improve the staff services to the Affiliated Societies and Branches.

There has been a marked improvement in the interchange of information, publications and reports between the Affiliated Societies and Branches.

A plan has been initiated by your new Standing Committee to study func-

tional and operational roles of the Affiliated Societies and Branches as related to those of the APHA.

There is now a designated section in the Journal for news of Affiliated Societies and Branches. During 1956 there were 17 pages used for this purpose and 34 pages through the September, 1957, issue of the Journal.

Further study is under way by your committee on the relationship to APHA of those members of Affiliated Societies and Branches who are not members of the APHA. A referee to the committee has been designated to initiate the study of this matter.

A referee has also been designated to study a proposed questionnaire aimed at uncovering factors influencing individual membership in Affiliated Societies, Branches and the APHA.

Further consideration is being given to the question of cancellation of the practice of rebates from the APHA to Affiliated Societies and reactions of Affiliated Societies to this suggestion are being determined.

Possible approaches are being studied to single billing for Affiliated Society, Branch, and APHA membership.

The wishes of Affiliated Societies with reference to the provision of traveling teams of experts for their annual meetings are being determined.

The above items are not all-inclusive but are noted as an indication of the areas being considered by your new Standing Committee on Affiliated Societies and Branches. Of all committees in the Association this one perhaps is more dependent upon support and help from the Association membership than any other. We solicit your participation through your local affiliates and your suggestions either to your regional representatives on the committee or to your chairman.

MALCOLM H. MERRILL, M.D.
State Department of Public
Health, Berkeley, Calif.,
Chairman

Report of the chairman of the committee to the Governing Council, November 10, 1957, at the Eighty-Fifth Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

Journals Wanted

The Association has received several requests for the May, June, July, September, and November, 1957, Journals from persons who bind the magazines. These persons and the Association would be grateful if members having no use for these particular issues would make them available to others. Such generosity will be much appreciated. The magazines should be sent to the Association office at 1790 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.